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Security Information

9 April 1952

SUMMARY OF 4 APRIL MEETING HELD AT THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ON DEFECTOR PROBLEMS

S. 244
Ominous Bill

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25X1A A meeting of all intelligence agencies concerned with the defector program was held on 4 April 1952 at the Department of Justice. CIA was represented by Mr. [REDACTED]. The meeting was called at the request of the Deputy Attorney General to discuss the disposition of Soviet and Satellite personnel, particularly Communist Party members, who defect in the United States.

25X1X The Chairman, representing Immigration and Naturalization, pointed out that under the Internal Security Act of 1950 the Attorney General has the responsibility to deport Soviet and Satellite personnel who held membership in the Communist Party and who defect in the United States. He said that I&N realized that deportation action in such cases was not in the national interest and would have an adverse effect on the defector program. But, he added, if I&N did not deport such defectors, it was not carrying out its duty to enforce the law. He asked what agency was going to watch the defector's activities in the United States if, as at present, I&N declined to take deportation action. He cited the case of [REDACTED] former [REDACTED] delegate at the UN, who 25X1X

25X1A without any check on his activities. He suggested that the agency most concerned with such a defector make periodic checks and report to I&N. He added that I&N did not feel that such supervision was its responsibility. FBI spokesmen also disclaimed such responsibility.

The advisability of seeking legislation that would exempt from deportation Soviet and Satellite personnel who held membership in the Communist Party and defect in the US was considered. The consensus seemed to favor this positive approach, and the question was raised as to who should spearhead this legislation in behalf of all concerned. The chairman suggested that the agencies consider this problem for discussion at a future meeting.

Pending legislation or some other solution to the problem, the consensus was in favor of I&N using the legal means at its disposal to prevent deportation of Soviet or Satellite officials who defect in the US and who had Communist affiliations. The method considered the best of those available is the parole provision of the Internal Security Act. This involves the arrest of the individual and then his parole under I&N supervision. The chairman pointed out that this was not the intent of the law, but that I&N was willing to cooperate in the national interest on this basis until a solution of the problem was evolved.

The next meeting was scheduled for 11:00 hours 18 April 1952 at Room 1310, Department of Justice.

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